

Amendment under Article 34

1. A glass panel comprising:

a pair of glass sheets (1, 2) opposed to each other across a gap (V) and joined with each other through low melting glass (4) at peripheries thereof to seal said gap (V),

wherein said low melting glass (4) is heated and softened to a melted condition in which gas is suctioned from said gap (V) after the low melting glass (4) is applied to said peripheries, thereby to allow adjacent faces (4a) of the low melting glass (4) facing to the gap (V) to progressively bulge into the gap (V) toward central regions of the glass sheets (1, 2) in a sectional view substantially perpendicular to planes of the glass sheets (1, 2).

2. A glass panel comprising:

a pair of glass sheets (1, 2) opposed to each other across a gap (V) and joined with each other through low melting glass (4) at peripheries thereof to seal said gap (V),

wherein said low melting glass (4) is heated and softened to a melted condition in which said peripheries of the glass sheets (1, 2) are pressed to bring them close to each other after the low melting glass (4) is applied to said peripheries, thereby to allow adjacent faces (4a) of the low melting glass (4) facing to the gap (V) to progressively bulge into the gap (V) toward central regions of the glass sheets (1, 2) in a sectional view substantially perpendicular to planes of the glass sheets (1, 2).

3. A glass panel as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said adjacent faces (4a) each comprises a curved face bulging into said gap (V).

4. A glass panel as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein spacers are

disposed in said gap (V) of said pair of glass sheets (1, 2), and wherein said gap (V) is sealed in a decompressed condition.

5. A method of manufacturing a glass panel including a pair of glass sheets (1, 2) opposed to each other across a gap (V) and joined with each other through low melting glass (4) at peripheries thereof to seal said gap (V), said method comprising the steps of :

(a) forming a suction bore (5) in either one of said pair of glass sheets (1, 2) and placing the low melting glass (4), spacers (3) and one glass sheet (1) of said pair of glass sheets (1, 2) on the other glass sheet (2) of said pair of glass sheets (1, 2);

(b) executing a joining process by heating said pair of glass sheets (1, 2) having said low melting glass (4) applied thereto to melt said low melting glass (4) and by joining the peripheries of said pair of glass sheets (1, 2) through the low melting glass (4) in a melted condition thereby to seal said gap (V);

(c) suctioning gas from said gap (V) through said suction bore (5) with coefficient of viscosity of said low melting glass (4) in the melted condition being maintained in a predetermined value or less; and

(d) sealing said suction bore (5).

6. A method of manufacturing a glass panel including a pair of glass sheets (1, 2) opposed to each other across a gap (V) and joined with each other through low melting glass (4) at peripheries thereof to seal said gap (V), said method comprising the steps of :

(a) forming a suction bore (5) in either one of said pair of glass sheets (1, 2) and placing the low melting glass (4), spacers (3) and one glass sheet (1) of said pair of glass sheets (1, 2) on the other glass sheet (2) of said pair of glass sheets (1, 2);

(b) executing a joining process by heating said pair of glass sheets

(1, 2) having said low melting glass (4) applied thereto to melt said low melting glass (4) and by joining the peripheries of said pair of glass sheets (1, 2) through the low melting glass (4) in a melted condition thereby to seal said gap (V);

(c) pressing said peripheries of said pair of glass sheets (1, 2) to bring them close to each other as said low melting glass (4) is in the melted condition; and

(d) cooling said low melting glass (4) with said pressing operation being maintained.

7. A method of manufacturing a glass panel as claimed in claim 5 or 6, wherein said lower glass sheet (2) has a greater area than said upper glass sheet (1) so that the peripheries of said lower glass sheet (2) protrude from the peripheries of said upper glass sheet (1).